DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

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January 18, 1977

TO: The Secretary

FROM: EB - Julius L. Katz

Suggested Talking Points for Your Meeting With Secretary-designate Blumenthal at 3:30 Today

Coordination

-- Unlike the other cabinet departments which are tied to special domestic constituencies, State and Treasury take a broad view of our foreign policy interests. Close working relations between them from the very beginning in the development of foreign economic policy is essential to overcome the natural bureaucratic urge to undercut or upstage a competitor. And in their public pronouncements they must speak with one voice. To do otherwise is to confuse the American people, the Congress and foreign governments, and to impair own effectiveness. Coordination between State and Treasury improved significantly in the past 18 months to our mutual benefit, but the public perception is that we are still at sword's point and in disarray. This false perception is costly.

Summit

[redacted]

Irrelevant

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[redacted] Irrelevant

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[redacted] Irrelevant

CIEC Ministerial

[redacted] Irrelevant

Human Rights

-- It is important for the US to make clear that it stands for human rights. The new Administration has an opportunity to try new ways to mobilize international opinion in support of these rights. But it is also important to recognize that our influence on the behavior of others in this area is likely to be marginal at best. Governments deprive dissidents of human rights because dissidents threaten their power. It may take more leverage than we have--or than we may care to use where our security or other foreign policy interests are involved--to persuade governments to respect the rights of dissidents.

Publicity, such as that undertaken by Amnesty, International, may help, especially if it is amplified by the US and other governments and international organizations, to moderate the worst forms of terror and torture. Publicity and the "mobilization of shame" are probably our most effective sanction.

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